



Department Updates

March 2018

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Veterans Service Office

Scott Bachowski
Veterans Service Officer

Scanning Project

The Veterans Service Office began scanning our veterans' files in August 2017 and to date we have scanned approximately 475 files of the 7500 paper files that we currently store in filing cabinets. We have a couple filing cabinets available; if interested, please let us know if you would like the cabinets. We estimate the project will take an additional 2 to 3 years to complete.

2017 Completed Work

In 2017, the Veterans Service Office processed 119 Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) Service-Connected disability

claims, 25 DVA Non-Service Connected Disability Pension claims, 120 medical applications, 21 grave marker applications, and 11 burial reimbursement applications. We also registered 138 new county veterans into our database; this is an impressive number of new veterans being exposed to the benefits they have earned.

In 2017, Barron County had 777 veterans receiving Department of Veterans Affairs Service-Connected Disability Compensation. Disability is broken down into 10% increments from 0% to 100%. We had 303 veterans between 0%-20%, 155 veterans between 30%-40%, 108 veterans between 50%-

60%, 119 veterans between 70%-90%, and 92 veterans rated 100%. The ages of veterans receiving either VA disability or pension is broken down as follows: 74 veterans less than 35 years of age, 68 veterans age 35-44, 84 veterans age 45-54, 119 age 55-64, 322 age 65-74, and 165 older than age 75. There are currently 782 male and 50 female veterans receiving either VA disability or pension.

During 2017, 69 VA sponsored home loans were closed in Barron County worth \$11,906,174. Currently there are 229 active VA home loans in Barron County.



NATIONAL WORK ZONE AWARENESS WEEK
2018 WORK ZONE SAFETY:
EVERYBODY'S RESPONSIBILITY

Medical Examiner

Barron County Medical Examiner's Report Death Investigations - First Quarter 2018

TOTAL MONTH CASES	M	F	NATURAL	Suicide Homicide	ACCIDENT	PND	ATPSY	CREMA- TIONS	DEATH CERTI- FICATES	NOTES	On Scene Investigator
JAN FEB MAR					1=Overdose 4=Fall s 2=Hypothermia 3=Asphyxia 1=MVF oos		3=F 5=C			Youngest =3mo Oldest=102	Mary=19 Pam=4 Peter=7 Tessa=2
119	64	55	105	0		3		76	36		
Legend: PND = Pending Manner of Death Autopsy= C-Clinical, F-Forensic; MVF = Motor Vehicle Fatality OOC = Died outside of county/state Investigator: Mary Ricci Peter Neal Pam Ambrozaitis Tessa Main											



National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week April 8-14, 2018

Every year during the second week of April, the telecommunications personnel in the public safety community are honored. This week-long event is a time to celebrate and thank those who dedicate their lives to serving the public. It is a week set aside so everyone can be made aware of their hard work and dedication 24/7 answering the calls that come in to our dispatch center.

Thank you, again, for all the sacrifices you make to create a better and safer world for the public and the law enforcement officers on the street. Your commitment to your profession is appreciated to your law enforcement partners and the citizens you serve.

This isn't about how we can do our jobs better. It's about being appreciated for what we do.

Thank you Barron County Dispatchers "Where excellence becomes the norm"

Sheriff Fitzgerald

Treasurer

Vonnie Ritchie, Treasurer

The spreadsheet below shows a comparison of taxes for the past five years. The unpaid taxes as of February are collected by our office for all municipalities except for the City of Rice Lake. We have been collecting the 1st installment taxes for the Town of Almena for the past couple of years. You may have noticed on your tax bill that the State did not levy any taxes this year. More taxpayers paid the full amount of their taxes before December 31, 2017 to take advantage of the tax deduction in 2017. The unpaid percentage (25.44%) on January 31 is less than past years, see comparison below:

Five Year Tax Roll Comparison

Tax Year/Year Due	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016	2016/2017	2017/2018
State Tax	607,502.75	633,245.94	653,570.47	673,355.02	0.00
County Tax	18,152,504.27	19,174,143.00	19,569,260.00	20,210,095.00	20,916,813.00
Muni Tax	17,627,963.44	18,035,528.55	19,177,352.29	19,354,677.31	19,950,895.54
Special Dist	371,292.89	378,304.47	372,523.03	376,312.04	371,818.11
Schools	36,266,548.10	39,799,787.19	39,673,623.86	40,570,908.19	42,771,907.44
WITC	4,404,464.47	1,325,538.13	1,411,339.24	1,473,719.75	1,530,049.90
Total Levied Taxes	77,430,275.92	79,346,547.28	80,857,668.89	82,659,067.31	85,541,483.99
Omitted/70.43 Corr	7,831.19	6,418.16	-55,657.07	19,257.30	1,504.70
Sp Ass/Charges/DU	694,543.78	895,424.18	652,154.78	663,757.44	795,858.10
MFL	143,316.19	153,203.25	160,684.03	172,902.00	186,365.79
Total Tax Roll	78,275,967.08	80,401,592.87	81,614,850.63	83,514,984.05	86,525,212.58
Credits paid by State:					
Lottery Credits	1,507,263.87	1,611,262.64	1,496,068.39	1,777,606.00	1,726,575.92
First Dollar Credits	1,508,174.77	1,622,794.52	1,568,524.05	1,602,265.22	1,670,700.49
State Credits	5,769,020.38	5,725,788.99	6,735,285.80	6,887,837.29	7,782,872.18
Due After Credits	69,491,508.06	71,441,746.72	71,814,972.39	73,247,275.54	75,345,063.99
Taxes paid to Muni's	48,409,950.80	50,192,565.50	49,274,098.72	52,689,845.81	56,178,498.35
% paid by Jan 31 Yr					
Due	69.66%	70.26%	68.61%	71.93%	74.56%
Balance Due Feb	21,081,557.26	21,249,181.22	22,540,873.67	20,557,429.73	19,166,565.64
% unpaid Feb 1 Yr	30.34%	29.74%	31.39%	28.07%	25.44%

Unpaid Dec 31 year	745,317.96	645,349.66	812,381.90	582,283.00
% unpaid 12/31 yr due	1.07%	0.90%	1.13%	0.79%

Unpaid 12/31/2017	2,290.00	106,072.00	269,518.00
% unpaid 12/31/17	0.0033%	0.1485%	0.3753%

Tax Deed

We sold fifteen tax deed parcels in December 2017 and one more sold in March 2018. Parcel details are available in our office. The three remaining properties from last year's foreclosure need to be demolished. Two of them have been razed this year and we are working on the permits for the last one. Thanks to our Highway Department for doing the demolition on these condemned buildings.

An online auction of the personal property was held in March for the property in the Town of Oak Grove (formerly known as the Dobie Inn). Over 300 items were sold with the county share of the sale totaling \$10,060. After the items were removed from the building, it was razed. The land will be auctioned off in the near future.

We are in the process of getting the information ready for the In-Rem tax foreclosure process on the delinquent 2014 taxes. The list of parcels will be advertised in all the county newspapers and on the county website in the next few weeks.